Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KHARTO 01240 301217Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1621 INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL KHARTOUM 1240

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS
SUBJECT: CISCO 2 - GOS PREVENTS ROBERTS/DOWNEY VISIT
ERITREA

REF: KHARTOUM 1228 AND 1231

1. ACCORDING BRITISH AMBASSADOR PHILLIPS, ROBERTS/DOWNEY SAW PLF MEMBER "SULEIMAN" (OTHERWISE NOT IDENTIFIED) EVENING APRIL 29 TO CONVEY PLF AGREEMENT ROBERTS/DOWNEY VISIT THEIR AREA INSIDE ERITREA. SULEIMAN WAS TOLD THAT GOS WAS BLOCKING RIP. HE ASKED THAT BRITISH AND US EMBASSIES USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO PREVAIL UPON SUDANESE TO ALLOW ROBERTS/DOWNEY TO PROCEED. ROBERTS/DOWNEY ARE BEING INFORMED APRIL 30 BY BRITISH EMBASSY THAT LATTER WILL NOT REPEAT NOT RAISE THIS SUBJECT WITH GOS. (COMMENT: EMBASSY WILL TAKE SIMILAR LINE WITH CAMPBELLS IF APPROACHED. END COMMENT.)

2. IN AMPLIFICATION PARA 2 KHARTOUM 1228, PUBLIC SECURITY REP EVIDENTLY TOLD ROBERTS/DOWNEY EARLY APRIL 29 THAT NO RELEASE OF PLF HOSTAGES WOULD TAKE PLACE SOON BUT BELIEVED IT WOULD OCCUR EVENTUALLY. IN LIGHT THIS NEGATIVE LINE, BRITISH SUBSEQUENTLY CHECKED WITH HEAD, PUBLIC SECURITY WHO PROVIDED REASSURING WORD THAT EFFORTS ARE GOING FORWARD SECURE RELEASE THREE MEN AND THAT NEW INFORMATION IS EXPECTED VERY CONFIDENTIAL

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SOON.

3. LEN CAMPBELL CONFIRMED TODAY ENTIRE GROUP PLANNING REMAIN KHARTOUM UNTIL MIDDLE NEXT WEEK, ALTHOUGH STILL HOPING GO THROUGH WITH ORIGINAL ONWARD TRAVEL THEREAFTER.

4. COMMENT. SUDANESE SECURITY

CONTROLS ARE

SUFFICIENTLY THOROUGH SO THAT GROUP WILL NOT BE ABLE VISIT PORT SUDAN ENROUTE ERITREAN FRONTIER WITHOUT PERMISSION. IN ANY CASE, LEN CAMPBELL GIVES EVERY INDICATION OF SEEING WISDOM OF GROUP'S COOPERATING WITH SUDANESE. WHILE IT THEREFORE UNLIKELY CAMPBELLS WILL BE ABLE CARRY OUT THEIR ORIGINAL PLAN, BELIEVE THEIR TRIP HERE HAS BEEN USEFUL IN GIVING THEM BETTER UNDERSTANDING HOW WE MUST WORK WITH SUDANESE AUTHORITIES AND EXTENT TO WHICH EMBASSY HAS SOUGHT BE HELPFUL OVER LAST SEVEN MONTHS. BREWER

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Subject: CISCO 2 - GOS PREVENTS ROBERTS/DOWNEY VISIT ERITREA TAGS: PINS, SU, US, CISCO, PLF, (DOWNEY, NICK), (ROBERTS, GWYNN) To: STATE

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